in that the said composition is an inverted latex comprising from 20% to 60% by weight, and preferably from 25% to 45% by weight, of a] Claim 1, wherein the branched or crosslinked, anionic polyelectrolyte is based on partially or totally salified 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, copolymerized with 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate.--

Amend claim 9 as follows:

--9. (amended) Composition as defined in [one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the said composition is an] Claim 1, wherein the inverted latex [comprising] comprises from [20% to 60% by weight, and preferably from] 30% to 45% by weight, of a branched or crosslinked, anionic polyelectrolyte based on a 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid which is partially or totally salified in the form of the sodium salt or of the ammonium salt copolymerized with acrylic acid, partially salified in the form of the sodium salt or of the ammonium salt.--

Claim 10, lines 1 and 2, change "any one of Claims 1 to 9," to --Claim 1,--.

Claim 12, lines 1 and 2, change "any one of Claims 1 to 11," to --Claim 1,--.

Claim 14, lines 1 and 2, change "any one of Claims 1 to 13," to --Claim 1,--.

Claim 16, lines 1 and 2, change "any one of Claims 1 to 15," to --Claim 1,--.

Amend claim 17 as follows:

--17. (amended) Process for preparing [the composition as defined in one of Claims 1 to 16] a composition comprising an oil phase, an aqueous phase, at least on emulsifier of water-in-oil (W/O) type, at least one emulsifier of oil-in-water (O/W) type, the said composition is an inverted latex comprising from 20 % to 60% by weight, and preferably from 25% to 45% by weight, of a branched or crosslinked anionic polyelectrolyte based on at least one monomer possessing a strongly acidic function, copolymerized either with at least one monomer possessing a weakly acidic function or with at least one neutral monomer, characterized in that

a) an aqueous solution containing the monomers and the optional additives is emulsified in an oil phase in the presence of one or more emulsifiers of water-in-oil type,

b) the polymerization reaction is initiated by introducing a free-radical initiator into the emulsion formed in a), after which the reaction is left to proceed,

c) when the polymerization reaction is complete, one or more emulsifiers of oil-in-water type are introduced at a temperature below 50°C.--

Claim 19, lines 1 and 2, change "either of Claims 17 and 18," to --Claim 17,--.

Claim 20, line 1, change "one of Claims 17 to 19," to --Claim 17,--.

Cancel claim 21.

Claim 22, lines 3 and 4, change "one of Claim 1 to 16." to --Claim 1.--.

Claim 24, lines 2, cancel "one of"

line 3, change "Claims 1 to 16," to --Claim 1,--; after "and" insert --further comprising--.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By _____

Thomas W. Perkins
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

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